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To: Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Date: July 24, 2007

From: Bob Dean, Associate Regional Planner

Re: Regional Vision Development

This memo describes the next step in the development of a future vision for the Chicago region. At the June 6, 2007 meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources working committee, staff introduced major themes that had been identified at previous committee meetings as important parts of the regional vision.

Ultimately, the regional vision will be a narrative document describing the future of the region. It will be a series of broad, general statements about desired future conditions followed by more specific sentences containing more details or supporting language. For example, one paragraph in the vision could be, "In 2040, the region will feature a high degree of civic involvement. Residents of the region will be able to participate in government decision-making processes. Residents will also take active roles in addressing their own needs related to health care, public safety, and other issues." (*Please note that this is an example, and these sentences will probably not actually appear in the regional vision.*)

Below, staff has expanded the themes identified at previous Environment and Natural Resources committee meetings into "general theme statements." These theme statements are then followed by the original goals from which these themes were derived.

Major Themes (mentioned many times)	Sample Theme Statement	Related Goals
Climate change	In 2040, the region will be actively mitigating and adapting to climate change, considering its impacts on public health.	Air quality, Balanced economy and environment, Energy
Coordinated planning and government	In 2040, the region's government agencies will approach planning in a collaborative, cooperative way.	Biodiversity and natural communities, Intergovernmental cooperation, Planning
Ecosystem health	In 2040, the region will have a healthy, interconnected, and functional natural environment.	Air quality, Biodiversity and natural communities, Environmental protection, Farmland preservation, Lake Michigan, Open space, Public transportation and

		environment, Water quality
Environmental	In 2040, the region's economy will	Balanced economy and environment,
protection = economic	be strong due to investment in	Energy, Lake Michigan, Water quality,
development	environmental protection measures.	Water supply
Public health	In 2040, the residents of the region will be healthy.	Air quality, Energy, Environmental
		protection, Farmland preservation,
		Stormwater, Support for agriculture
Quality of life	In 2040, the region will have a high quality of life.	Infrastructure, Open space, Public
		transportation and environment,
		Redevelopment, Water quality
	In 2040, the region's unique identity	Biodiversity and natural communities,
Regional identity	will be strengthened and	Farmland preservation, Lake Michigan,
	celebrated.	Support for agriculture
Other Important		
Themes (mentioned a	Sample Theme Statement	Related Goals
few times)		
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iew tintes,	In 2040, residents of the region will	
Education	In 2040, residents of the region will have a high level of education	Environmental education
,	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues.	Environmental education
,	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues. In 2040, the region will have	Environmental education
,	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues.	
Education	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues. In 2040, the region will have	Environmental education Infrastructure, Redevelopment
Education Reinvestment and	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues. In 2040, the region will have focused development into infill	
Education Reinvestment and	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues. In 2040, the region will have focused development into infill locations by reinvesting in existing communities. In 2040, the region's activities will	Infrastructure, Redevelopment
Education Reinvestment and	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues. In 2040, the region will have focused development into infill locations by reinvesting in existing communities.	Infrastructure, Redevelopment Energy, Environmental protection,
Education Reinvestment and infill	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues. In 2040, the region will have focused development into infill locations by reinvesting in existing communities. In 2040, the region's activities will be sustainable from environmental, economic, and social perspectives.	Infrastructure, Redevelopment
Education Reinvestment and infill	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues. In 2040, the region will have focused development into infill locations by reinvesting in existing communities. In 2040, the region's activities will be sustainable from environmental, economic, and social perspectives. In 2040, the region will be actively	Infrastructure, Redevelopment Energy, Environmental protection,
Education Reinvestment and infill Sustainability	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues. In 2040, the region will have focused development into infill locations by reinvesting in existing communities. In 2040, the region's activities will be sustainable from environmental, economic, and social perspectives. In 2040, the region will be actively managing water demand and	Infrastructure, Redevelopment Energy, Environmental protection, Farmland preservation
Education Reinvestment and infill	have a high level of education concerning environmental issues. In 2040, the region will have focused development into infill locations by reinvesting in existing communities. In 2040, the region's activities will be sustainable from environmental, economic, and social perspectives. In 2040, the region will be actively	Infrastructure, Redevelopment Energy, Environmental protection,

Action Requested

The committee will be asked to confirm that the major themes accurately reflect past discussions. The committee will also be asked to discuss the importance or priority of the identified major themes.